

Oscar Garcia Rivera, Esq., was elected Assemblyman in the State of New York from the 14th District, on March 7, 1937.

Born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, on November 6, 1900, Oscar Garcia Rivera was raised on a coffee plantation. As a young man, Garcia Rivera demonstrated talent and leadership. He was president of his high school senior class in 1925, and excelled in his studies. After graduation from high school, Garcia came to the United States and began working part time in a factory in Brooklyn, while he continued to take courses to reach his goal of becoming a lawyer. He applied for a job at the U.S. Postal Service, obtained high recommendations, and was assigned to the post office in City Hall. He quickly became involved in union issues, and later encouraged the establishment of the Association of Puerto Rican and Hispanic Employees within the U.S. Postal Service.

Garcia Rivera attended law school at St. John's University, and graduated in 1930. Dedicated and committed to the struggles of Pioneer Puerto Ricans and Hispanics in East Harlem, where poverty and discrimination were rampant, Garcia Rivera announced publicly in 1937 that he would seek a seat in the New York State Assembly.

In March of the same year, he made history by becoming the first Puerto Rican elected to public office in the continental United States. He won re-election the following year and continued in this post until 1940.

During the short time that he served in the Assembly, Oscar Garcia Rivera initiated legislation that offered valuable and lasting contributions to his Puerto Rican community, the labor movement, and the working class. He introduced a bill guaranteeing safeguards against unemployment; this revolutionary piece of legislation was enacted into law in February of 1939. Garcia Rivera defended minimum wage laws, fought for regulated hours of labor, worked to establish tariff agreements, and most importantly, he was committed to protecting the rights of manual laborers and encouraged workers to organize themselves into active unions. He also supported the campaign which established a law which punished lynching throughout the United States.

The legislative career of Oscar Garcia Rivera ended barely 3 years after it began. He returned to Puerto Rico, and died in 1969 in the town where he was born, Mayaguez.

The anniversary of Oscar Garcia Rivera's election as the first Puerto Rican who attained a public office marks a proud moment in our history. Although his career as assemblyman was brief, Oscar Garcia Rivera became a great leader in his community and a role model for young people. His actions transformed the Puerto Rican community, and improved working conditions for all in the State of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this bill to honor Oscar Garcia Rivera and mark the beginning of Puerto Rican leadership in New York and the continental United States.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. MCHUGH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 885.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 885, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### AUGUSTA "GUSTY" HORNBLOWER UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3768) to designate a U.S. Post Office to be located in Groton, MA, as the "Augusta 'Gusty' Hornblower United States Post Office".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3768

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States Post Office to be located at 80 Boston Road in Groton, Massachusetts, shall be designated and known as the "Augusta 'Gusty' Hornblower United States Post Office".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper or other record of the United States to the United States Post Office referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Augusta 'Gusty' Hornblower United States Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. MCHUGH] and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. MCHUGH].

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight unanimously approved H.R. 3768. This bill before the House today designates the U.S. Post Office building which the Postal Service is constructing at 80 Boston Road in Groton, MA as the "Augusta 'Gusty' Hornblower United States Post Office." The legislation is sponsored by the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. BLUTE], and cosponsored by the entire Massachusetts State Delegation as required by procedures established by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Augusta Hornblower was known to be both outspoken and tough in the political arena, but a kind human being and a real friend on a personal level. "Gusty" Hornblower served many years in public service including as a trustee of the Plimoth Plantation, State chair and national board member of the American Legislative Exchange Council, and member of the Nashoba Community Hospital Board.

"Gusty" was the State Representative to the Massachusetts General Court from the First Middlesex District from 1985 to 1994 where she represented the towns of Groton, Ayer, Dunstable, Lunenburg, Pepperell, Townsend, and Tyngsborough. While in the Massachusetts House, she served on the Joint Committees on Election Reform and Taxation and the Special Commission on Tax Reform. She served as assistant minority whip in 1993-94.

"Gusty" Hornblower championed breast cancer research with great success in the Massachusetts State Legislature but died of the disease in August 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to support H.R. 3768.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1230

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of H.R. 3768, which designates the Post Office in Groton, MA as the Augusta "Gusty" Hornblower Post Office. It is cosponsored by the entire Massachusetts delegation, particularly my friend and colleague, Mr. BLUTE. It is a fitting honor and duly notes the contributions made by Ms. Hornblower. She is a person well deserving of this honor, and we certainly support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. BLUTE], prime sponsor of this bill.

Mr. BLUTE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on Postal Service for helping to move this bill expeditiously through the committee. I thank my good friend from Virginia for his kind words on behalf of this bill, and I would also like to thank my colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. MARTIN MEEHAN, for his cosponsorship, and the entire Massachusetts delegation for getting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, Augusta "Gusty" Hornblower was quite a woman and quite a good friend. She served as a State legislator in Massachusetts general court for 5 terms. She was one of the first women in our State to achieve the post of legislative leader. She was the minority whip for many years. She represented her constituents well on such important issues as the closing of Fort Devens, which is in her district and in my district. By recognizing the tremendous economic impact on her district with its closing, Gusty helped activate and steer the Fort Devens Enterprise Commission in sharing beneficial land use and industrial recovery for the area.

She was also an advocate for lower taxes, increased educational opportunities and tough crime laws. She served on the State House Joint Committee on Election Reform and Taxation as well as the Special Commission on Tax Reform.